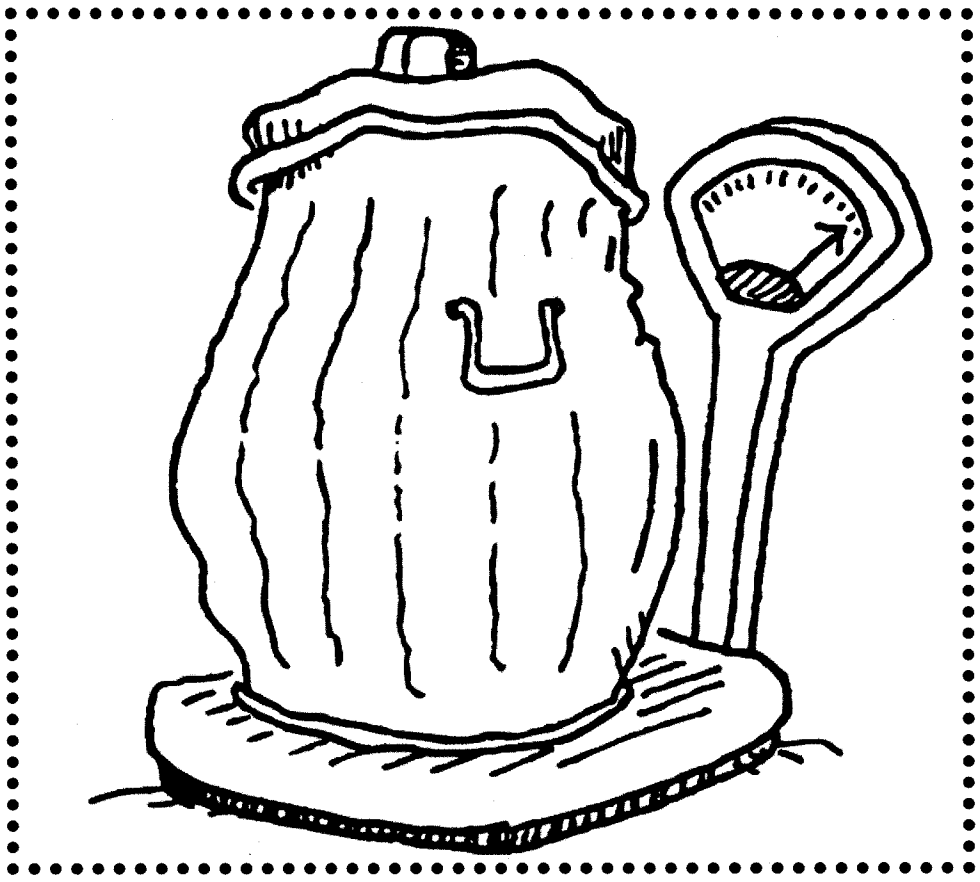
Do it Yourself

W A S T E

Assessment Kit



It's What's Inside That Counts

Provided free by:
Mecklenburg County Solid Waste
Business Recycling Hotline 704-432-3200
www.wipeoutwaste.com

WIPE OUT WASTE
Waste Reduction in Mecklenburg County

7 Easy Steps

Just fill in the blanks to determine the *type* and *amount* of trash you generate.

1 Estimate the amount of waste you generate that currently is dumped into the landfill.

You may need to contact your waste collection company for this information

Container Type	Container Size (cu yd)		Number of Containers		Estimated % Full at Pickup		Number of Monthly Pickups		Volume (cu yd)
Dumpster		*Multiply By*		*Multiply By*		*Multiply By*		*Equals*	
Compactor									
Other									

Add volume column for total waste _____ **Cu. Yds.**

2 Determine total monthly waste disposal and collection costs.

This information should be on your waste hauling bill. If container rental costs, disposal (tipping fees) fees and hauling costs are not itemized, include the total costs.

Monthly Container Rental Cost		Monthly Disposal Cost		Monthly Transportation Cost		Monthly Total Cost
	Plus		*Plus*		*Equals*	

3 Determine the waste stream and amounts.

For an understanding of the types of waste generated, identify each waste stream from point of generation to placement in the garbage dumpster.

Dept/Area	Waste Stream	Who Collects & With What	Est. Amount of Waste Produced
Example: Offices	***White Paper Aluminum Cans Cardboard Food/Food WAste Wrappings Paper Towels***	***Janitor collects materials from garbage cans with a rolling 35 gallon garbage container and places in 8 yard dumpster on loading dock. Cardboard is broken down and collected separately.***	***An 8 cubic yard dumpster is full every night. About 50% of the waste is office paper, 30% of the waste is cardboard, 5% is aluminum cans and plastic drink bottles and 15% is restroom waste and food waste.***
Common Areas Lobby Restrooms Copy Room Mail Room			

4 **Determine the percentage of material in the waste stream.** Use section three to help estimate the percentage of materials in the waste stream. Often, it is helpful to interview individuals who are more familiar with the waste stream such as janitorial or cleaning staff.

Material	% of Total Waste	Material	% of Total Waste
Office Paper		#1 Plastic Bottles	
Corrugated Cardboard		#2 Plastic Bottles	
Newspaper		Textiles	
Magazines		Food Waste	
Aluminum Cans		Other	
Tin Cans		Other	
Glass Bottles & Jars		True Garbage	

Total should equal 100%

5 **Determine the percentage of recyclables or materials that could be reduced in the waste stream by using the information in section 4.** Choose only those that you plan to recycle or reduce.

Estimated Percentage of Recyclables	*Multiply by*	Estimated Participation Rate	*Equals*	Percentage of Recycled/Reduced Material
		*75%		

**Experience indicates 75% is an average recovery rate for the total amount of your recyclables*

6 **Determine the adjusted amount of trash to be landfilled if a recycling/reduction program is started.**

Previous Amount of Waste Generated (Total from 1)	*Multiply By*	Adjusted Percentage of Waste *(% remaining from 5)	*Equals*	Adjusted Volume of Waste (Should be less than total from 1)
Cu. Yds.				

*100% minus percentage from 5

7 **Determine the potential savings from reduced trash.** Using the adjusted volume of garbage found in section 6, call your waste hauler and find out the waste disposal charges for the adjusted amount of waste. Call other waste haulers and get price quotes as well. Compare the new costs with the costs found in section 2. **Example:** If 50% of your trash will be reduced or recycled, you may be able to cut your collection costs in half. Or if you currently have an 8 cu. yd. dumpster and after recycling you only need a 6 cu yd dumpster, you may be able to save money by reducing your container size.

Adjusted Waste Disposal Cost (New Cost from Haulers)	Previous Waste Disposal Cost (Number found in 2)	Waste Disposal Savings (Total from 7)
$	$	$

**These funds may now be available to cover the cost of your new recycling program.

**Costs do not take into consideration the environmental and societal benefits that occur as a result of recycling

-See Reverse for conversion table to help in estimating numbers-

D E N S I T Y C O N V E R S I O N

Volume ⟷ Weight

MATERIAL	VOLUME	WEIGHT (lbs
PAPER		
Corrugated Cardboard (uncompacted)	1 Cubic Yard	50-150
Corrugated Cardboard (compacted)	1 Cubic Yard	300-500
Corrugated Cardboard (baled)	1 Cubic Yard	700-1,100
Mixed Office Paper (uncompacted)	1 Cubic Yard	400
Mixed Office Paper (compacted)	1 Cubic Yard	755
1 Case Office Paper	5000 Sheets	42
Ream 20# bond 8 1/2 X 11	500 Sheets	5
Ream 20# bond 8 1/2 X 14	500 Sheets	6.4
Newspaper (uncompacted)	1 Cubic Yard	360-505
Newspaper (compacted/baled)	1 Cubic Yard	720-1,000
Newspaper	12" Stack	35
Phonebooks	Set-Charlotte White and Yellow	6.75
METAL		
Aluminum Cans (whole)	1 Cubic Yard	50-75
Aluminum Cans (manually compacted)	1 Cubic Yard	250-430
Uncompacted	1 case - 24 cans	0.9
Steel Cans (whole)	1 Cubic Yard	150
Steel Cans (flattened)	1 Cubic Yard	850
PLASTIC		
Soda Bottles (uncompacted)	1 Cubic Yard	30-40
Soda Bottles (compacted)	1 Cubic Yard	515
2-Litter Bottles	8 Bottles	1
Dairy/Detergent Bottles (uncompacted)	1 Cubic Yard	24
Dairy/Detergent Bottles (compacted)	1 Cubic Yard	270
GLASS		
Whole Bottles	1 Cubic Yard	500-700
Semi-crushed Bottles (manually broken)	1 Cubic Yard	1,000-1,800
Uncrushed to manually broken bottles	55 gallon drum	300
ORGANICS		
Food Waste (solid/liquid fats)	55 gallon drum	400-410
Leaves (uncompacted)	1 Cubic Yard	200-250
Grass Clippings (uncompacted)	1 Cubic Yard	350-450
Pallets	Each	40 (average)
AUTOMOTIVE		
Car Tires	Each	12-20
Truck Tires	Each	60-100
Used Motor Oil	1 gallon	7

Common Conversion Factors

1 Gallon = 0.0049 Cubic Yards
1 Cubic Yard = 202 Gallons
90 Gallons = 0.45 Cubic Yards
1 Ton = 2000 Pounds

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